

THE FAIRMONT WEST VIRGINIAN.

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West Billiard Parlors, Fairmont avenue.
A. Merrifield's store, Locust avenue.
Fred Harr's confectionery, Water street.
J. W. Orr's news stand, Monongah.
Claude Higginbotham, Company Store, Watson.
Emmett Ice's news stand, Mannington.
Abbey Burke, agent, Rivesville.
Miss Sallie E. Martin, postoffice, Fairview.

The West Virginian is delivered by carrier to all parts of the city and the nearby towns. If a single copy is missed, notify us at once so that an investigation may be made.

The West Virginian has an order for five hundred extra copies of today's paper. This is encouragement with a big E.

The wicked standeth in slippery places, so sayeth the Scriptures; but a fellow is liable to show more evidence of his wickedness when he hits the pavement.

If the Democrats, Socialists, Social Laborers and Prohibitionists should all unite they would make a fair-sized minority party. Roosevelt had more than a million and a half majority over all.

The Wheeling News thinks that a dispensary law would be more harmful than beneficial in its city. This would largely depend on what might be considered harmful and what might be thought beneficial, says the Parkersburg State Journal.

The Fairmont West Virginian accepts the State Journal as its lieutenant in the discussion of the State dispensary question. This, at any rate, is better than being a private. Parkersburg State Journal.

The State Journal would be a valuable assistant in any cause either as a private or lieutenant.

If Hon. Dick Kerens should succeed in being elected United States Senator from the State of Missouri, which now seems altogether probable, the little city of Elkins, West Virginia, will enjoy the distinction of being the home of two United States Senators—Kerens and Elkins—and one ex-United States Senator—Henry G. Davis—all at the same time. Huntingdon Advertiser.

The Fairmont West Virginian intimates that Parkersburg might get the State capital if the State Journal would let the Morgantown University alone. This city is not grabbing after any State institutions but wants a lot of manufacturing establishments and a hundred thousand population. State Journal.

While Parkersburg is not grabbing after any State institutions, yet it stands a good chance of becoming the capital city if Charleston is ever shorn of its glory.

At the coming session of the West Virginia Legislature an effort will be made to enact a liquor law something similar to the dispensary law in force in South Carolina. The Morgantown New Dominion favors the new law, but admits that it will be opposed by two classes of people, viz: "the prohibition cranks, and liquor people." The proposed law would impose severe penalties for selling to minors and men of intemperate habits. West Virginia's present liquor laws are loose, there being a much larger number of licensed saloons in Virginia towns than in towns of equal size of other States, and it is probable that a dispensary law would be preferable to the statute now in force in the Mountain State, but it is at least very doubtful whether any such law will be enacted. Morgantown New Dominion.

Hello boys, "all girls like violets. You know they do." Come to Fleming, the florist, for them.

THE DISPENSARY QUESTION.

Referring to the discussion of the dispensary liquor question the Wheeling News says:

"When two leading Republican papers of the calibre of the State Journal and the West Virginian lean towards such a law it shows that a serious effort may be made to pass it. It would not surprise the News if the Legislature would enact such a law though we believe it would be more harmful than beneficial in Wheeling."

We would like for the esteemed News to show how it would be harmful in Wheeling. We can readily see how it would be harmful to a few individuals of that city—the retailers of the ardent. But are their interests to be considered for a moment when those of the people generally are involved? We see how under such a law Wheeling would be very beneficial to the State. The metropolis consumes a great deal of spirits, according to its large number of saloons, and as its people would hardly cease being consumers under the dispensary law, the State would undoubtedly derive a large amount of revenue from that city. It is revenue we are after. The machinery of the State has to be kept in running order, and the money necessary to do this should come from a source that can best stand it. The passage of a dispensary law would be a disappointment to a comparatively few persons—the fellows who have grown saucy and fat and who in the main are ready and liberal contributors to Democratic campaign funds. The money they handle, or the profits they make, would help along many of the State's institutions, therefore we think the State should conduct the liquor business outright and let the present dispensers seek other employment.

Some people may think and say that it should be beneath the dignity of a State to engage in the liquor business. As to that we cannot see that it is any more degrading to dispense the stuff in the South Carolina way than it is to sanction its sale as is done in West Virginia.

While the West Virginian does not care anything about them, yet it is not fighting the liquor interests. Life is too short to engage in that kind of warfare. Besides it is nowise inclined toward the feeble prohibition movement. Liquor is here and as long as the people buy and drink it, it will remain here. When there is no longer a demand for it its manufacture will cease. To be brief, our aim is simply, since the party in power has started out to relieve the people of taxation, to point to a source from which much revenue may be derived, fearing that without a great deal of which taxes cannot be in a manner wiped out, as the party aforesaid hopes to do, has promised to do, and certainly can do if liquor be made to carry a part of the burden, as we have suggested.

PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

There are several matters that will come before the next Legislature of special importance, and which the Republican party is pledged to act upon. One of these is a Primary Election Law. The next session promises to be a busy one, and many important measures will be up for consideration. But of first importance comes our election laws. The existing laws are radically defective, and should be revised. But in this matter, as in all others, the old adage applies, "To be right you must start right." The place to begin to purify our elections is in the primary. The Republican party stands pledged to this work. Let the next Legislature redeem the party pledge, and give us a good, clean primary election law. Many of the States have enacted laws on this subject, but probably Wisconsin has the best, all things considered.

The Glen Island Revelation.

"Even a fire proof building, constructed wholly of steel, brick, tiles and cement, cannot be occupied in New York without the most rigid inspection of the electric light wiring. The Glen Island disaster has revealed the fact that no provision has ever been made for the inspection of the wiring of steamboats. On any sort of tinder-box craft with a wooden hull and inflammable superstructure the electric light wires may be strung as the owners please. Further sacrifice of life should not be necessary to bring about a thorough revision of our antiquated steamship inspection laws. —New York World."

The coroner's jury has laid the blame for the death of the victims of the Charleston bridge disaster at the door of the city officials. The jury says it was "unable from the testimony to fix the responsibility upon any particular officer or set of officials," hence the matter is disposed of so far as the law is concerned.

The West Virginian makes the prediction that Nan Patterson will be acquitted. Then what a drawing card she will be for the theatrical manager who shall be lucky enough to get her.

COSTLY FIRE

DEFECTIVE ELECTRIC LIGHT WIRE STARTS CONFLAGRATION IN COLUMBUS.

(By Publishers' Press.)

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 21.—A defective electric light wire caused a conflagration in the chief business section of Columbus early this morning, entailing a loss approximating \$500,000.

The carpet and curtain house of Krauss, Butler and Bonham 21 North High Street was completely destroyed. The Wheeler building, adjoining on the South was badly damaged. Several firemen were injured. Captain Jack Welsh being the most seriously hurt, sustaining a badly wrenched back. An explosion hurled Welsh thirty feet into the street, and several men of his company were blown out their feet.

The fire started in the Krauss, Butler and Bonham store.

The damage estimates are as follows:

Mithoff Building (in which Krauss, Butler and Bonham were located) \$50,000; Wheeler Building, \$25,000; Deshler bank building, \$10,000; First National bank building, \$10,000; Krauss, Butler and Bonham, \$15,000; Mifflin Clothing Company, \$10,000; Parisian Cloak Company, \$15,000.

The firemen fought the flames from 3:30 to 5 o'clock before getting them under control.

FORGOT TO PAY

FOR A PAIR OF SHOES OR AT LEAST HE DIDN'T DO SO ANYHOW.

Charlie Mike, an Italian miner of Monongah, was arrested about one o'clock this afternoon by Officer Wid Gould. Mike, it seems, had helped himself to a pair of shoes at the Economy store and neglected to make any arrangement toward the exchange of filthy lucre for the same. Charles McCray and a man named Edgell witnessed the theft and immediately sent for a policeman. When Officer Gould arrived upon the scene the man had made good his escape but from the description given, Gould was so able to locate him and about an hour after the shoes disappeared they were again located and this time they reposed under the arm of said Mike as he awaited the arrival of the Monongah car at the corner of Jackson and Monroe streets. He was given a hearing before Squire Amos this afternoon at 3:30 but too late for us to learn the verdict.

CONTRACTS LET.

Charleston Company Gets Printing and Paper Contract—Other Jobs Awarded.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 21.—The awarding of the printing, binding and paper contracts of the state house were announced last night by Governor White. The contracts were awarded as follows: Printing, Donnelly Publishing Company, Charleston, \$19,318; binding, Acme Publishing Company, Morgantown, \$7,737; paper, Donnelly Printing Company, representing Dien & Wing, of Cincinnati, \$29,483. There were a number of other bidders for the work.

Final Practice Game.

To-night at the Association rooms the final practice for the basketball game with Clarksburg will be gone through with. Fritz Hawley, the local captain, says that Clarksburg is much stronger than ever before, yet he has no other thought except that his team will win.

The men who compose the local team are, Hawley, Miller, Fienberg, Moss, Morfit, with Layman as sub. Game called Thursday evening at 8:30 sharp.

SOCIETY

QUIET WEDDING

E. B. CARSKADON AND MISS ETHEL McELFRESH WERE MARRIED THIS MORNING.

Mr. E. B. Carskadon and Miss Ethel McElfresh were quietly married this morning at nine thirty at the home of Mrs. H. Leonard in the Fourth ward by Rev. J. Engle, city clerk. They were attended only by Miss McElfresh, sister of the bride, and Mr. Robert Miller, of the office force of the Fairmont Coal Company. Mrs. Leonard was the only other witness to the ceremony. The bride was dressed in a stylish traveling suit with becoming hat to match and immediately after the ceremony the bridal couple were driven to the station where they boarded the train for a ten days' trip to Washington and other cities in the East.

While the wedding was not a complete surprise to the many friends of the young people the exact date was kept a secret and their more ardent friends were thus deprived of the opportunity of making a demonstration in their honor at the station. After the license was secured this morning a close watch was kept over the groom's movements but he managed to elude the watchers and get away before his friends heard of the marriage.

Mr. Carskadon is an able and popular young man and this interesting event in his life will be noted with satisfaction by many people. He is employed in the B. & O. freight office in this city and holds a responsible position. Mr. Carskadon is a graduate of the law department of the W. V. U. and practiced law here for a few years but gave up his office for more lucrative work. He is also first lieutenant in Company H, West Virginia National Guards, and is a popular and thoroughly efficient officer.

The bride is a pretty and affable young lady with many admiring friends who are unanimous in offering their best wishes for her future happiness. She is a graduate of the El-Hott Business College and during the past year has been stenographer to Attorney Kemble White. A daintily furnished room at the home of Attorney and Mrs. M. M. Neely in the Fourth ward awaits the return of the happy pair.

MOST EXCELLENT

Was the Banquet Given By the "Purples" to the "Golds" Last Night.

The banquet that was to be given at the end of the recent contest, between the "Purples" and the "Golds" of the Y. M. C. A., was served at the Tavern last night. Covers were spread for one hundred and four guests, yet when all were seated there remained ten vacant chairs.

A few minutes before 9:15 o'clock, the time set for the banquet to begin, members of the Purple began to file into the lobby of the hotel, and just before the arrival of the Golds they were ushered into the dining room, where they awaited the coming of their brethren. The bearers of the yellow badge were a trifle surprised to find that their friendly, yet unsuccessful rivals had anticipated them in gathering around the festal board, but they soon gained their composure. After singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," Dr. J. W. McDonald was selected toastmaster.

In order to become better acquainted, each one present was required to arise, announce his name and occupation and to tell how long he had been a member of the association. Then each began to indulge in the two chief ingredients that are nec-

FOR GOOD HONEST WEAR,
STYLE AND
COMFORT.

**BROH'S
BEST**

Has no Shoe its equal

MEN'S - \$3.50.
LADIES' \$3.00.

CORNER MAIN and PARK.

essary to all successful banquets, namely, food and mirth, which were there in abundance. Following is the menu:

Cold Slaw Oysters Celery
Pickles Pickles Celery
Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce
Mince Pie
Coffee.

The toastmaster called upon the following associates, and they cheerfully responded: J. M. Black told how the Purples lost. Had he not been caught "sleeping on his rights" the contest would have been a tie, for the Golds won by a majority of only one, and Mr. Black had an application in his pocket which he failed to present before the closing of the contest. That application would have made the sides even, each would have had fifty-one names.

J. Clark Evans told how the Golds won. He corroborated the above statement.

W. C. Shafer welcomed the new members into the association. In a few well chosen remarks he portrayed the strong points and helpful influences found in the Y. M. C. A.

C. W. Evans discussed why we should have a Y. M. C. A. building.

S. W. Hull spoke on the needs of a new building. Secretary Hawley pointed out ways by which means could be raised to erect the prospective structure. One way was by the "young men's building fund," which is best set forth in the pledge distributed to the members: I hereby promise to pay the sum of _____ dollars to the treasurer of the Young Men's Christian Association of Fairmont, W. Va., on condition that five thousand dollars be pledged in young men's building fund toward a total of forty thousand dollars to be subscribed for the purpose of buying a lot and erecting a building thereon; one-fourth of the amount pledged to be paid April 1, 1905, and the balance in three equal installments, viz.: October 1, 1905, April 1, 1906, October 1, 1906.

Much credit is due to Secretary Hawley and Host B. G. Williams in arranging and carrying out the details of a very successful banquet.

SASONEFF IN SWITZERLAND.

Man Claimed to Be Assassin Says He Had no Accomplice.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—The Daily Express, whose St. Petersburg correspondent has persistently asserted that Sasoneff, the slayer of Von Plehve, escaped from prison and that the man sentenced to prison for life last week was deliberately substituted by the authorities, publishes an interview its Zurich correspondent says he had with the escaped assassin in that Swiss city.

If the story is true Sasoneff's object in desiring to be interviewed is to save his substitute and alleged accomplice. He is quoted as saying he had no accomplice; that he was engaged against Von Plehve because his father and his mother had been killed by Plehve's agents. He is also credited with giving minute details of the escape and it is said that on being asked for proof of his identity he showed the correspondent scars and bandaged wounds received as the result of the explosion.

Some person will get the brass bed. Coal City House Furnishing Company. Some person will get the Wilton rug. Coal City House Furnishing Company.

Miss Mistletoe is in town. Have you seen her? She is at Fleming's, the florist. She is covered with jewels.

Ladies' furs, fine line, all sizes, styles and colors, a bargain at J. S. People's.

All Music sung in Wang on sale only at Marion Piano Co.

COMUNTZIS' CONFECTIONERY.

328

Main Street.

Don't

Go to the trouble to make your

CANDY

while you can buy it for less than you could make it. The Comuntzis' Confectionery can sell you as pure and cheap CANDIES as you can make. We have a big line of home-made Taffies, Chocolates, Bon Bons, Cream Dates, Walnuts and all kinds of Fine Mixtures. Boxes of CANDY from 25c and upwards. Also we have a fine line of CAKES.

COMUNTZIS' CONFECTIONERY

328

MAIN STREET.

Consolidated Phone 184.

Anderson's Bon Ton.

Hats Hats Hats
Must All Go At 1-2 Price.

A lot of New Xmas Goods received to-day for our Xmas Annex.

SPECIAL--\$4.00 Vases only \$2.50. Other goods just as cheap.

Fifteen dozen more Ladies' Ties and Stocks received to-day.

You should see our Linens--Dresser Covers, Table Covers, Mexican Drawn Work, 50 cents to \$10.00.

Plenty of Handkerchiefs for all, 5 cents to \$2.00 each.

Our Furs are beauties for the prices. Children's Fur Sets \$1.25 to \$6.00.

Children's Coats \$1.50 to \$7.50. Caps 25 cents to \$3.25.

SPECIAL--\$2.50 Pure Silk Umbrella, only \$1.60.

Petticoats, 50 cents to \$10.00. Cotton, Wool and Silk.

Walking Skirts three fifty to seven fifty. All Pure Wool goods.



"Knittop"